

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

using a delegation service provider to:

~~receiving receive~~, from a delegator, a designation of a role and a delegate to assume the role;

~~receiving receive~~, from a credential service provider, an indication that the designation is valid;

~~generating generate~~ a delegation credential in response to receiving the indication; and

~~receiving a request from the delegate for access to a service;~~

~~providing provide~~ the delegation credential to the delegator or delegate in response to the request; and

using the credential service provider to:

receive the delegation credential as part of a process for accessing a service;

receive an access requirement for accessing the service, the access requirement being received from a relying party that provides the service;

sending determine if the delegation credential is valid for the access requirement, wherein determining if the delegation credential is valid comprises providing the delegation credential to a verification service that compares the selected delegation credential to permissible pre-existing delegation credentials that correspond to the access requirement for the delegate; and enable access to the service if the delegation credential comprises a valid delegation credential for the delegate generating a report via the verification service regarding usage of the delegation credential by the delegate.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the delegation credential allows the delegate to access the service.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the delegation service provider issues further comprising: issuing a confirmation to the delegator which indicates that the delegation credential was generated.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the delegator can delegate multiple functions, the role comprising one of the multiple functions.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the delegation credential is issued provided from the delegation service provide to, and stored by, at least one of the delegate and a the credential service provider.

7 and 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 8, wherein multiple delegation credentials correspond to the access requirement and the credential service provider provides the multiple delegation credentials to the delegate.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the delegate selects the delegation credential from among the multiple delegation credentials for use by the credential serviced provider to use for the access requirement and the credential service provider provides the delegation credential to the relying party.

11. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving a request from for a delegate for to access to a service;
obtaining delegation credentials for the delegate;
determining which of the delegation credentials correspond to an access requirement for the service;

providing, to the delegate, delegation credentials that correspond to the access requirement;

receiving, from the delegate, an indication corresponding to a selected delegation credential;

sending a the selected delegation credential to a verification service that compares the selected delegation credential to permissible delegation credentials for the delegate; and
using the selected delegation credential to access the service if the selected delegation credential comprises a permissible delegation credential for the delegate; and
generating a report via the verification service regarding usage of the delegation credential by the delegate.

12 and 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 ~~13~~, wherein sending is performed prior to using the selected delegation credential to access the service.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 ~~13~~, further comprising:
receiving an indication that the selected delegation credential is valid prior to using the selected delegation credential to access the service.

16 to 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a one or more machine-readable medium media that stores store executable instructions that cause a machine one or more machines to:

receive, from a delegator, a designation of a role and a delegate to assume the role;

receive, from a credential service provider, an indication that the designation is valid;

generate a delegation credential in response to receiving the indication;

~~receive a request from the delegate for access to a service;~~

provide the delegation credential to the delegator or delegate in response to the request;

and

receive the delegation credential as part of a process for accessing a service;

receive an access requirement for accessing the service, the access requirement being received from a relying party that provides the service;

send determine if the delegation credential is valid for the access requirement, wherein determining if the delegation credential is valid comprises providing the delegation credential to a verification service that compares the selected delegation credential to permissible pre-existing delegation credentials that correspond to the access requirement for the delegate; and

enable access to the service if the delegation credential comprises a valid delegation credential for the delegate

generate a report via the verification service regarding usage of the delegation credential by the delegate.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 23, wherein the delegation credential allows the delegate to access the service.

26. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 23, further comprising instructions that cause the ~~machine~~ one or more machines to:

issue a confirmation to the delegator which indicates that the delegation credential was generated.

27. (Original) The article of claim 23, wherein the delegator can delegate multiple functions, the role comprising one of the multiple functions.

28. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 23, wherein the delegation credential is issued to, and stored by, at least one of the delegate and a credential service provider.

29. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores executable instructions that cause a machine to:

receive a request ~~from~~ for a delegate ~~for~~ to access ~~to~~ a service;
obtain delegation credentials for the delegate;

determine which of the delegation credentials correspond to an access requirement for the service;

provide, to the delegate, delegation credentials that correspond to the access requirement;

receive, from the delegate, an indication corresponding to a selected delegation credential;

send a selected delegation credential to a verification service that compares the selected delegation credential to permissible delegation credentials for the delegate; and

use the selected delegation credential to access the service if the selected delegation credential comprises a permissible delegation credential for the delegate; and
generate a report via the verification service regarding usage of the delegation credential by the delegate.

30 and 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 29 31, wherein sending is performed prior to using the selected delegation credential to access the service.

33. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 29 31, further comprising instructions that cause the machine to:

receive an indication that the selected delegation credential is valid prior to using the selected delegation credential to access the service.

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34 to 40. (Cancelled)